

Message Text

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62

ACTION OPIC-06

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 AID-05 AGR-05

TRSE-00 /030 W

----- 010992

R 101721Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0264

INFO AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BRIDGETOWN 0255

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: EFIN,ACC

SUBJ: ANTIGUA CORN PROJECT (AAI)

REF: STATE 19420

1. ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS POSED IN PARA (2) OF REFTEL:

A) PROJECT IS FEASIBLE, ALTHOUGH LONG TERM PROFITABILITY PICTURE IS CLOUDED BY ANTIGUA'S HISTORY OF OCCASIONAL DROUGHTS. CURRENT TEST CROP IS REPORTED DOING WELL.

B) LOCATION OF PROJECT ON ANTIGUA PROVIDES PREFERENTIAL MARKET ACCESS TO CARIFTA AREA. UNDER THAT SYSTEM MEMBER COUNTRIES ARE SUPPOSED TO IMPORT EACH OTHERS SURPLUS PRODUCTS BEFORE TURNING TO OUT OF AREA SOURCES. (IMPOSSIBLE TO DISCUSS "PROJECTED PRICING" AS WE ARE UNAWARE OF AAI PLANS.)

C) POLITICAL RISK. ANTIGUA IS NOW IN THE FINAL WEEK OF A BITTERLY FOUGHT NATIONAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN, ONE OF THE ISSUES OF WHICH IS INDEPENDENCE. ALTHOUGH NEITHER PARTY IS ANTI-U.S. OR ANTI-FOREIGN INVESTMENT, WE ARE RESERVING FINAL COMMENT ON THIS QUESTION UNTIL AFTER THE ELECTION AND AFTER THE WINNING PARTY HAS AIRED ITS THOUGHTS ON INDEPENDENCE. AFTER THE ELECTION (FEBRUARY 18) WE WILL REPORT ON THE POLITICAL RISK PICTURE AS IT APPLIES TO AAI AND OTHER POTENTIAL INVESTORS IN ANTIGUA.

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2. AN EMPLOYEE OF THE AG ATTACHE IN PORT OF SPAIN HAS JUST VISITED ANTIGUA AND, WE BELIEVE, VIEWED THE CORN

PROJECT. IF ABOVE INFO INSUFFICIENT FOR OPIC'S
PURPOSES, SUGGEST EMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN BE QUERIED DIRECTLY.
BRITTON

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CORN, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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